

Message Text

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21 11
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 NEA-10 ISO-00 DRC-01 DEAE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-10

TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-10 SCI-06 OMB-01 SS-20 AID-20

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R 160550Z NOV 73
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2015
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
AMEMBASSY SAIGON
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR, TH, XC, XE, VN, AS
SUBJ: CND: AD HOC COMMITTEE ON ILLICIT TRAFFIC IN FAR EAST

REF: STATE 222472

1. EMBOFF CALLED ON O'CONNOR (ASSISTANT COMPTROLLER-GENERAL,
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DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE) NOVEMBER 15 TO DISCUSS HIS

IMPRESSIONS OF AD HOC COMMITTEE STUDY TOUR.

2. O'CONNOR BROADLY SATISFIED WITH OUTCOME OF STUDY TOUR. MAIN ACCOMPLISHMENT IN HIS VIEW WAS TO ENCOURAGE WIDER RECOGNITION OF NEED FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON DRUG ENFORCEMENT AMONG REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS. ALSO BELIEVES MEETINGS AND PUBLICITY ATTENDANT ON COMMITTEE'S VISIT FOCUSED ATTENTION ON NARCOTICS PROGRAM AND TENDED TO INCREASE PUBLIC AND GOVERNMENT SUPPORT IN MOST COUNTRIES.

3. SUPPLEMENTAL PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS: (A) MOST COUNTRIES APPEARED TO HAVE HEIGHTENED AWARENESS AND CONCERN OVER DRUG PROBLEMS AND THIS BEING TRANSLATED INTO INCREASED PRIORITY FOR ANTI-DRUG ABUSE EFFORTS; (B) THERE IS NOTABLE TREND TOWARD ORGANIZATIONAL CENTRALIZATION OF DRUG PROGRAMS, INCLUDING BOTH ENFORCEMENT AND OTHER PHASES OF ACTIVITY.

4. O'CONNOR SOMEWHAT DISAPPOINTED BY SECRETARIAT'S PERFORMANCE IN PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION OF TOUR. HE BELIEVES SECRETARIAT AT OUTSET GAVE MINIMAL GUIDANCE TO HOST COUNTRIES ON TOUR PURPOSE AND PARTICULAR INTERESTS OF COMMITTEE AND SUBSEQUENTLY MADE LITTLE OR NO EFFORT TO ASCERTAIN IN ADVANCE THE CONTENT OF THE PROGRAM ARRANGED LOCALLY. PROGRAMS ACCORDINGLY NOT SHARPLY FOCUSED ON COMMITTEE'S INTERESTS AND WERE USUALLY NOT SUBJECT TO ANY MODIFICATION AFTER COMMITTEE ARRIVED AND LEARNED OF THEM.

5. COMMITTEE'S REPORT HAS BEEN FORWARDED TO CND FOR REPRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION. O'CONNOR CONSIDERS MAIN RECOMMENDATION TO BE THE PROPOSAL FOR REGULAR, PREFERABLY ANNUAL, MEETINGS OF NATIONAL ENFORCEMENT AGENCY HEADS IN EACH COUNTRY AFFECTED BY TRAFFIC FROM GOLDEN TRIANGLE. HE WAS IMPRESSED BY THE REPEATED INDICATIONS DURING TOUR OF VALUE WHICH NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES GAINED FROM 1971 CANBERRA MEETING AND NEED FOR REGULAR SERIES OF SUCH MEETINGS TO FACILITATE FULL INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS TOUCH ON NATIONAL PRIORITIES, TRAINING AND ORGANIZATION.

6. O'CONNOR BELIEVES AD HOC COMMITTEE HAS NOW SERVED PURPOSE AND SHOULD EXPIRE AS SCHEDULED UNDER RESOLUTION WHICH CREATED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IT. BELIEVES ARRANGEMENTS FOR PROPOSED ANNUAL MEETINGS AND FOR PERIODIC REVIEW OF REGIONAL SITUATIONS COULD BE LEFT TO SECRETARY-GENERAL.
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